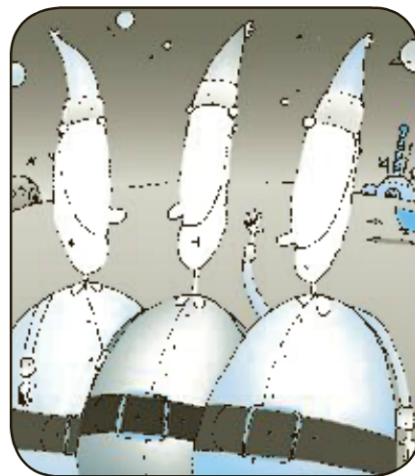


Clauses

Clauses, like phrases, are word groups that add information to a sentence. Unlike phrases, clauses always have a subject and a predicate. Clauses that form a complete thought are called **independent clauses**, and clauses that do not form a complete thought are called **dependent** or **subordinate clauses**. (*Texas Write Source* gives more information about clauses on page 750.)



Examples

Dependent Clause:

Even though she was at the peak of her career,
Susan Colby retired from running in 2002.

Independent Clause:

Susan Colby retired from running in 2002 even though she was at the peak of her career.

Susan Colby was a fantastic runner, and she won many medals.

(Two independent clauses are separated by a comma and a coordinating conjunction or by a semicolon.)

Directions

In each of the following sentences, identify the italicized clause. Write "I" for independent or "D" for dependent. The first sentence has been done for you.

- I 1. Though she grew up in a poor area of her town,
Susan Colby worked hard to overcome poverty.
2. *Susan was a gymnast at a young age,* but she ended up being a track star.
3. *After she won her fifteenth race in 2001,* Colby retired from her running career.
4. Colby's daughter, Lindsay, was also a runner, and *she competed throughout high school and college.*

- _____ 5. *Susan Colby coached high school track, and her team won the state championship two years in a row.*
- _____ 6. What do you think motivated Susan *when she ran*?
- _____ 7. After she retired from running, *Susan wanted to write a book about her life.*
- _____ 8. *Although she officially retired from competition in 2001,* Colby continued to coach track for many years.
- _____ 9. *Because she had an incredible career,* many people were inspired by Susan Colby.

Next Step Do some research using the Internet or another source to find information about another athlete. Write five sentences using dependent and independent clauses. Share your writing aloud with a classmate and then check each other's work for correct use of clauses.